Grant of political asylum to Indians by United States

2716. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Indian Express of July 30, 1987 under the caption "U.S. asylum for Indian alleging persecution".

(b) if so, what is the name of the person who has been granted asylum by the U.S. Government; and

(c) whether any protest has been lodged with the U.S. Government in this behalf?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Harbhajan Singh.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Embassy of India, Washington, has conveyed the anxiety and concern of the Government of India over this development and requested the State Department to initiate urgent remedial measures.

Filling up of Vacancies from Scheduled Tribes in NDMC

2717. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA:
SHRI S. C. JAMIR:
SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA:
SHRI SOHAN LAL DHUSIYA:
SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the policy decision of the Government of India in connection with the filling up of posts in requisite percentage by Scheduled Tribes' candidates is also applicable to New Delhi Municipal Committee;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for which the New Delhi Municipal Committee has not filled up even 7½ per cent of the vacancies reserved for Scheduled Tribes during the last forty years; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to ensure that the policy decision of the Government of India is complied with by the NDMC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The short-fall is due to non-availability of Scheduled Tribe candidates for appointment against direct recruitment posts and also for promotion posts.

(c) In addition to notifying the posts reserved for the Scheduled Tribes, to the Employment Exchange, the same are also intimated to various associations connected with the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. In order that appropriately qualified SC/ST candidates become available, reservations have been effected in all technical, semi-technical and professional courses. Free examination-coaching centres have also been set up to prepare the SC/ST candidates for competitive examinations. Separate hostel facilities have also been made available for them.

MPEDA proposal for establishing a prawn hatchery at Gopalpur-on Sea

2718. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Marine Products Export Development Authority has put up a proposal for establishing a prawn hatchery at Gopalpur-on-Sea (Bhubaneshwar) with French collaboration;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what is the estimated cost of this venture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) is establishing a prawn hatchery at Gopalpur-on-Sea with the technical assistance of M/s France Aquaclture, Paris to produce 25 million prawn larve (seed) per annum for supply to farmers. The estimated total cost of the project spread over a period of 4 years is Rs. 256.49 lakhs. This project is being implemented through a separate registered society and the fund for the implementation is provided by MPEDA.

'Quiz India' programme

2719. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a programme called 'Quiz India' has been sponsored by the Ministry of Tourism on Doordarshan;

(b) if so, what is the total expenditure to be incurred on this programme including the preliminary contests;

(c) what is the impact of this programme on the development of tourism in the country; and

(b) whether State Governments are also involved in the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The second stage of "Discover India TV quiz programme" of the Ministry of Tourism sponsored by Philips India Limited was produced by Doordarshan.

(b) No expenditure has been incurred by the Ministry of Tourism on the TV programme. However, a total expenditure of Rs. 98.84 lakhs was met by the Ministry of Tourism on the Press medla campaign. entry forms, announcement of results, collection and computerized correction, prize money, travel and boarding of 48 television programme contestants.

(c) The Ministry of Tourism received an overwhelming response of over 4 lakh entries. The enthusiasm shown by the youth between the age group of 15-30 years, in discovering their own country proves the tremendous impact of this programme.

(d) The State Governments were not involved in this programme.

Export Development Policies

2720. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has opined that export development policies were inadequate;

(b) whether it is a fact that import substitution has not been receiving adequate support, particularly in the area of energy generation;

(c) whether it is also a fact that exports might not keep close to projections and anticipations; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to take measures for the attainment of the balance of payments objectives of the Seventh plan and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Planning Commission has not opined that export development policies were inadequate.

(b) Import substitution has been receiving adequate support. There has been accelerated replacement of energy imports in the recent past.

(c) The Government has undertaken a series of corrective measures since 1985-86 to boost the growth of exports and curb the increase in imports. The provisional figures of export for 1986-87 show that the export target has been exceeded by Rs. 347 crores.